

US 421 New Road Construction

Public Hearing

Brown Gym, Madison, IN
Tuesday, February 20, 2018

Welcome

- Rickie Clark, INDOT Office of Public Involvement
- Purpose/explanation of public hearing
- Public hearing format
- Sign-in table
- Informational handouts
- Submitting comments for public record/hearing transcript
- Displays and graphics

Welcome

- **Introduction of INDOT Project Team**

- Project Management
- Public Involvement
- Seymour District – INDOT Regional Office
- Environmental Services

- **Crawford Murphy & Tilly**

- Engineering, Design & Environmental Analysis Team

- **Recognition of elected and local public officials**

- Sign-in at attendance table to be added to project mailing list
- Legal notice of public hearing was published in the Madison Courier on 1/31/18, 2/7/18 & 2/16/18
- A notice of the public hearing was mailed to known property owners within the project area
- Announcement of this hearing was posted to INDOT website. A media release was also issued
- A copy of presentation and project documentation are available for review on-line via INDOT website

Welcome

- Those who sign-in at the attendance table will be added to project mailing list
- Promotions:
 - Hearing notice was posted to INDOT website
 - A media advisory was also issued
 - E-newsletters were emailed
 - Legal notice of public hearing published in the Madison Courier:
 - January 31, 2018
 - February 7, 2018
 - February 16, 2018
- Copy of presentation and project documentation is available online at www.Project421.com



Public hearing on Feb. 20

As mentioned in previous correspondence, INDOT and the Project 421 team have identified [Alternative 6](#) – the at-grade alternative – as the preferred alternative that meets the purpose and need for Project 421 while minimizing environmental and historic impacts. This alternative connects State Road 56/Main Street and U.S. 421 to the Milton-Madison Bridge with a signalized, at-grade intersection at 2nd Street.

At the public hearing, everyone is encouraged to review the preferred alternative and provide comment for the official public record. Two minutes will be allotted for each comment.

A formal presentation and public hearing will start at 6 p.m., and team members will be available to answer questions during the open house periods from 4-6 p.m., and after the hearing until 8 p.m.

Who: INDOT and the Project 421 team

What: Public hearing

When: Tuesday, Feb. 20, 4-8 p.m.

Presentation and public hearing at 6 p.m., open house hours from 4-6 p.m., and after the hearing until 8 p.m.

Where: Brown Gym, 100 Broadway Street

To make this recommendation, INDOT's consulting engineering firm – Crawford, Murphy & Tilly (CMT) – reviewed public feedback, evaluated the impacts to historic properties, and conducted initial traffic and environmental studies. Reconstructing this half-mile section of U.S. 421 will address safety concerns and mobility challenges, and help meet the economic development needs of Madison. Benefits of Alternative 6 include:

- Improvement of corridor safety by more than 20 percent, compared to an improvement of only 13 percent with the grade separated alternative
- Overall reduction in corridor noise levels and fewer impacts to the National Historic Landmarks and to properties identified on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), when compared to the other build alternatives
- Lowest total project cost of all build alternatives studied
- Decreased travel times in the corridor by 40 percent when compared to the existing condition, and 6 percent over the grade-separated option

About Project 421

[Project 421](#) is the study of the half-mile section of U.S. Route 421 through Madison that approaches the Milton-Madison Bridge, which spans the Ohio River between Madison and Milton, Ky. The purpose of the project is to select a route that best addresses the safety concerns, mobility challenges and economic development needs of Madison.

STAY CONNECTED

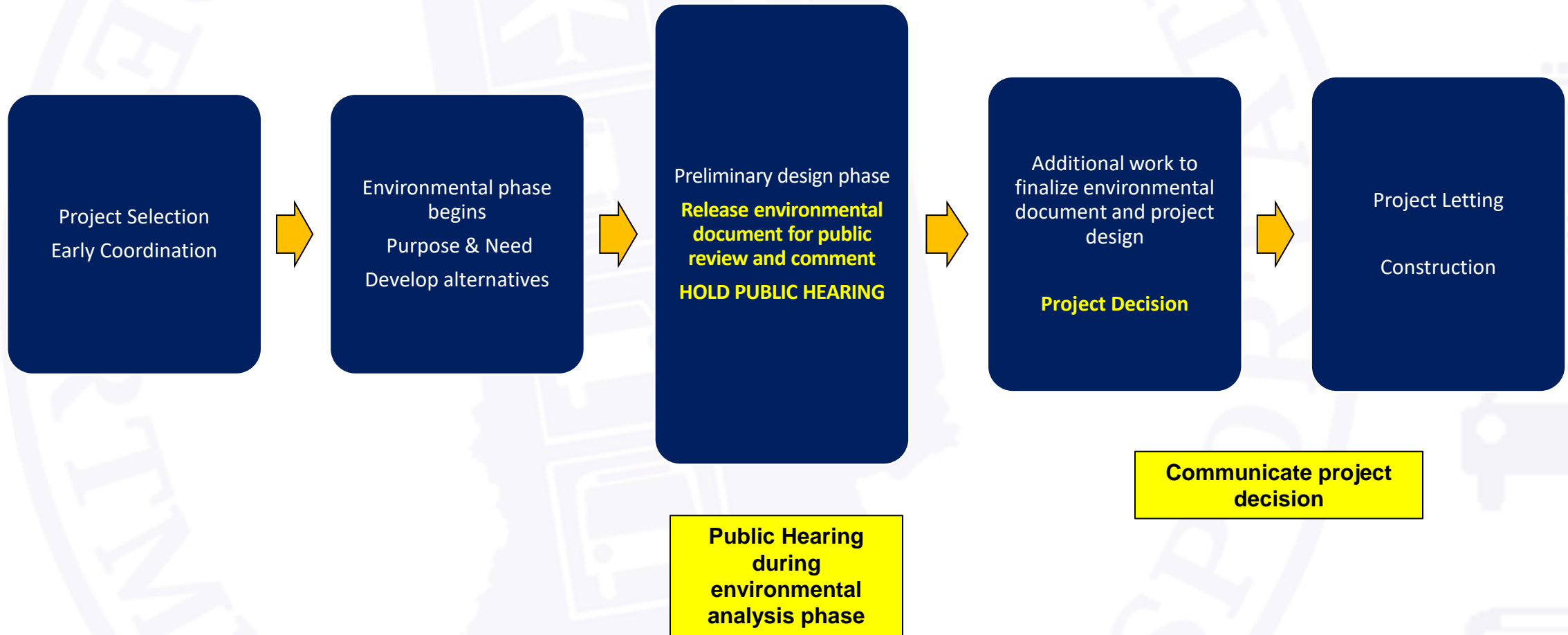


Project Stakeholders

- Indiana Department of Transportation
- Indiana Division Federal Highway Administration
- Jefferson County
- City of Madison
- Elected & Local officials
- Residents and citizens
- Cultural Resource Specialists
- Commuters
- Businesses
- Emergency services
- Churches
- Community Organizations
- Trucking Industry



Project Development



Need and Purpose

- **Need**

- Poor existing geometric roadway alignment
- Traffic congestion
- Increased noise and air pollution

- **Purpose**

- Enhance safety and mobility
- Reduce environmental impact of trucks
- Support opportunities for economic development
 - Manage access
 - Enhance pedestrian accessibility
- Reduce the number of contributing historic properties impacted by US 421 traffic



Environmental Document

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

- Federal guidelines require INDOT to analyze and evaluate the impacts of a proposed project to the natural and socio-economic environments
- NEPA is a decision-making process
 - Purpose and Need
 - Alternatives Screening
 - Preferred Alternative

Impacts are analyzed, evaluated and described in an environmental document

- What are the impacts this project might have on the community?
- How can impacts be avoided?
- Can impacts be minimized?
- Mitigation for impacts?

Draft environmental document released for public involvement

- January 2018
- Available for review and comment via public repository
- After comment period, FHWA will issue record of decision identifying preferred alternative

Environmental Document

Evaluates impacts to:

- Right-of-way
- Streams, Wetlands, and Other Waters
- Floodplains
- Endangered Species
- Farmland
- Cultural Resources (Historic/Archaeological)
- Parks and Recreational Lands (Trails)
- Residential development
- Air Quality
- Noise
- Community Impacts
- Environmental Justice
- Hazardous Materials
- Permits
- Mitigation
- Public Involvement
- Commercial Development

- **Environmental Analysis Process**

- Establish Purpose and Need
- Develop a number of possible alternatives
 - The “Do Nothing” alternative is a baseline for comparison
- Evaluate and screen alternatives
- Identify a preferred alternative
- Solicit public comment on environmental document and preliminary design plan
- Address and consider public comment as part of decision-making process
- Finalize and approve environmental document



Advisory Committees

Section 106 Consulting Parties

- Downtown historic Madison is one of the largest Historic Districts in the United States
- Section 106 Process
 - National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) prescribes consideration of historic properties
 - Consulting parties group consisting of numerous stakeholders to provide input on preferred alternative
 - Three in-person and one call-in meetings conducted with consulting parties
 - 800.11 document/MOA
 - 6 historic properties impacted
 - 2 contributing property relocations



Community Advisory Committee

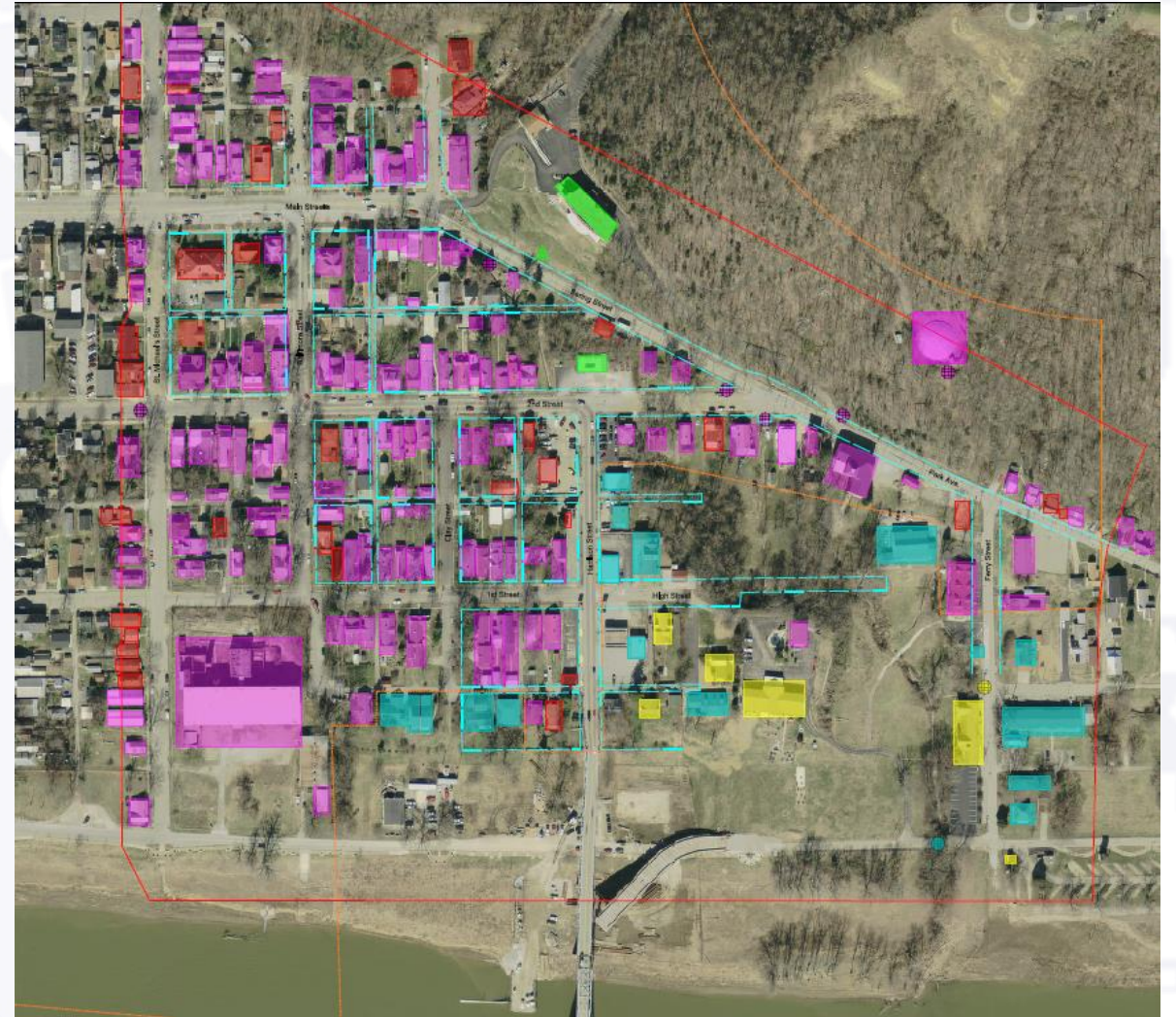
- Group of diverse community backgrounds to provide community input/opinions
- Four meetings held to discuss project alternatives



Alternatives Considered

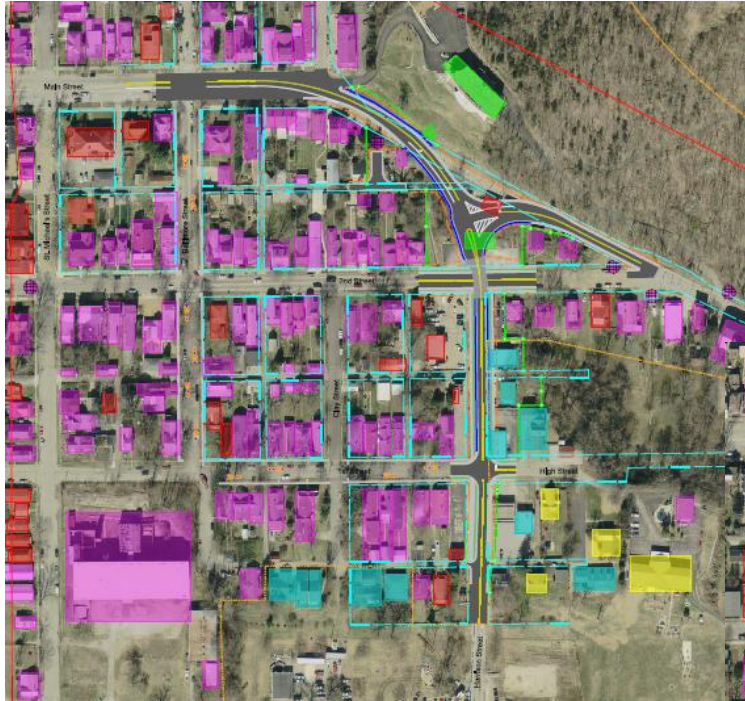
Nine Alternatives Analyzed

- Two-tier screening process to select preferred alternative
- Preliminary screening done based on mobility, safety and environmental impact performance
- Secondary screening conducted using cultural resource, property access and right of way impacts

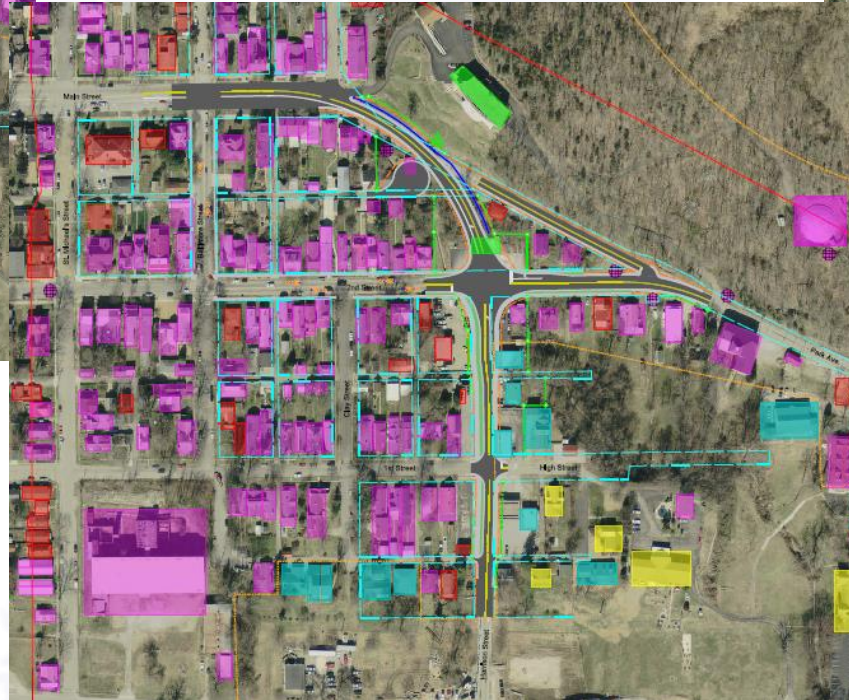


Secondary Alternatives Considered

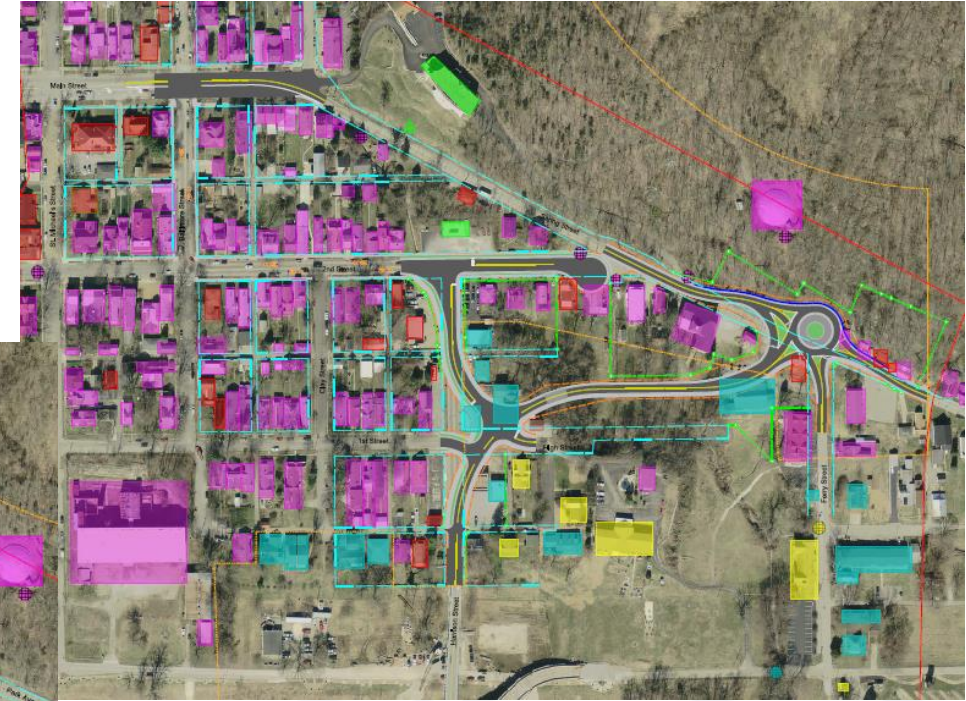
Grade-Separated



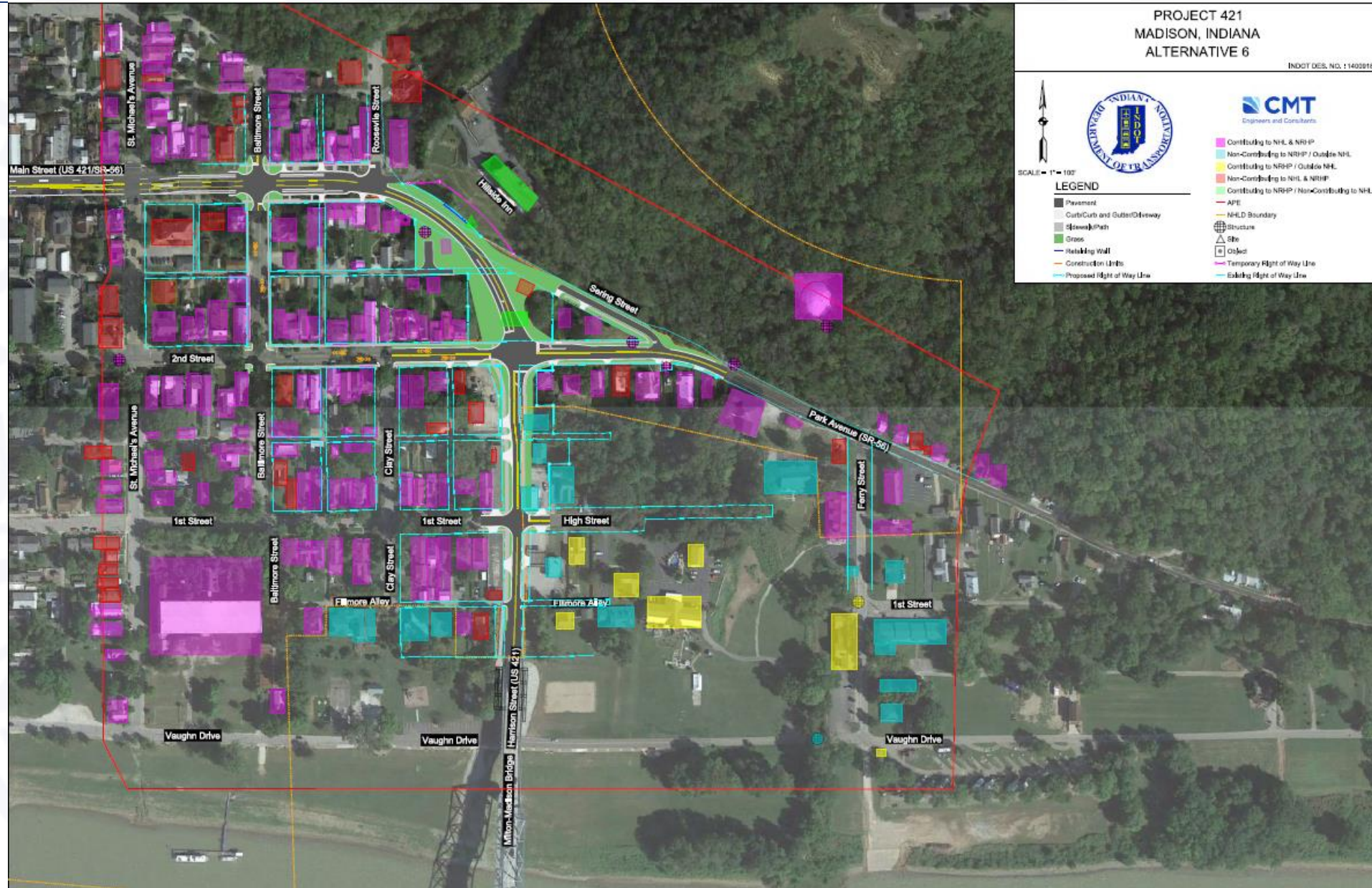
At-Grade



Roundabout



Preferred Alternative



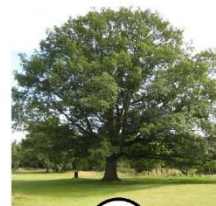
Preferred Alternative – At-Grade

- What is an at-grade intersection?
 - Intersection/crossing of two or more roads at the same level
 - Intersection may be yield, stop or signal-controlled
 - May allow access to crossing roads
- Benefits of an at-grade intersection
 - No visual vertical barrier
 - Improve corridor safety by over 20%
 - Decrease travel time by 40% through the corridor
 - Overall reduction in corridor noise levels
 - Lowest cost alternative



Context-Sensitive Design

- Terraced walls
 - Walls needed in certain locations due to elevation changes
 - Attempt to blend with existing scale of nearby walls
 - Façade to be used to provide similar look to existing walls and nearby surroundings
- Landscaping
 - Ground cover, low maintenance plantings
 - Blend with surrounding plant palette



A Northern Red Oak



B Princeton American Elm



C London Planetree



D Ginkgo Tree



E Honey Locust



F Shumardii Oak

Context-Sensitive Design

- Multimodal Corridor
 - Bicycle route established; designed for inclusion with future city bicycle routes
 - Pedestrian route from Main Street to Milton-Madison Bridge
 - Connection from Harrison Street to Milton-Madison Bridge pedestrian walkway
- Curb bump outs
 - Provide traffic calming effect
 - Improve visibility of pedestrians wanting to cross the street
 - Shorten exposure of crossing pedestrians to traffic



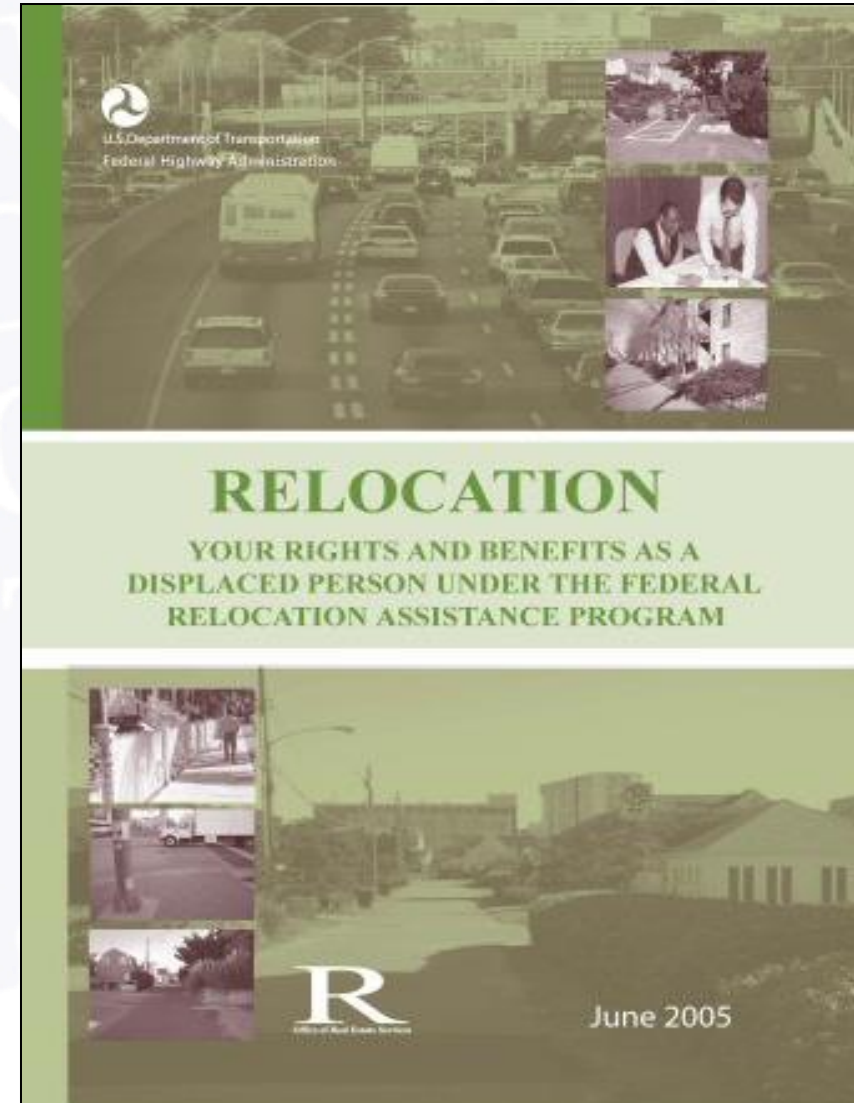
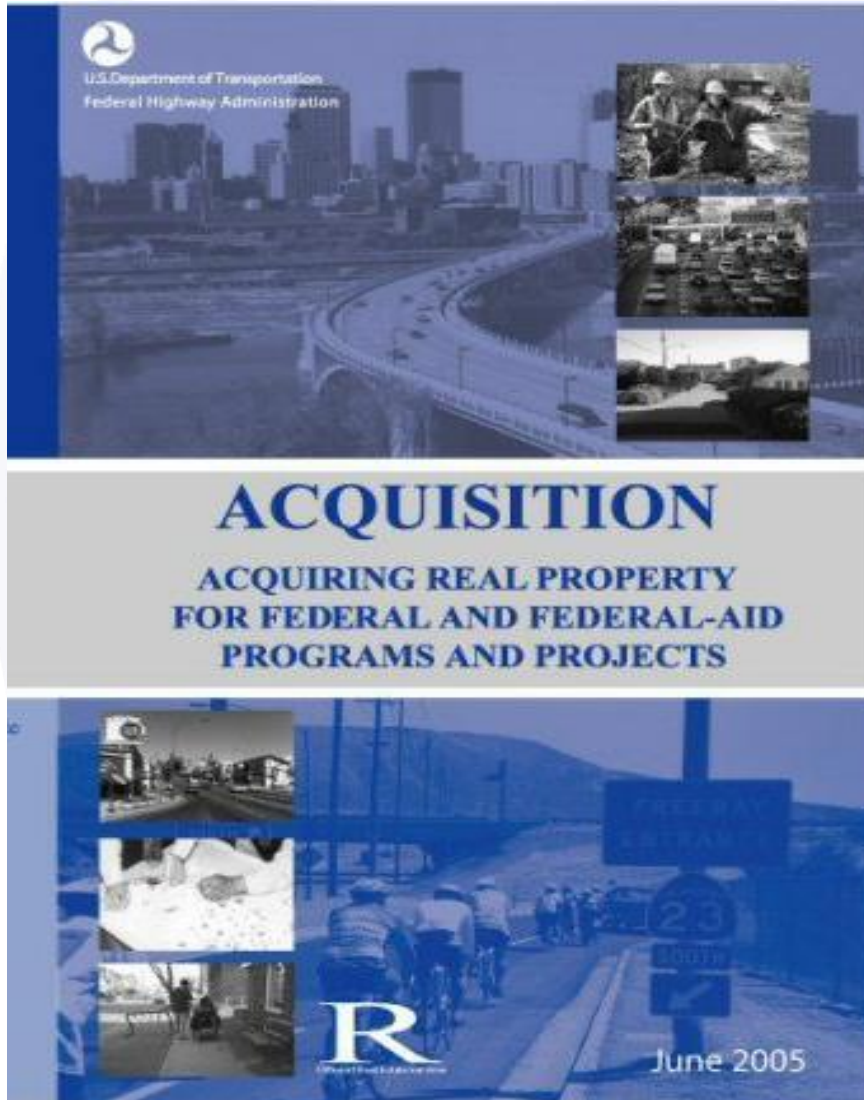
Maintenance of Traffic (MOT)

- Project to be constructed under traffic
- Requires lane closures during construction
- No detours of US 421 or SR 56 traffic will be required
- Temporary portable traffic signals will be used to maintain traffic while constructing a couple intersections
- Phased construction to allow traffic to shift to one side while work continues on the other side
- Access to local businesses and residences will be maintained.



Potential Impacts of Preferred

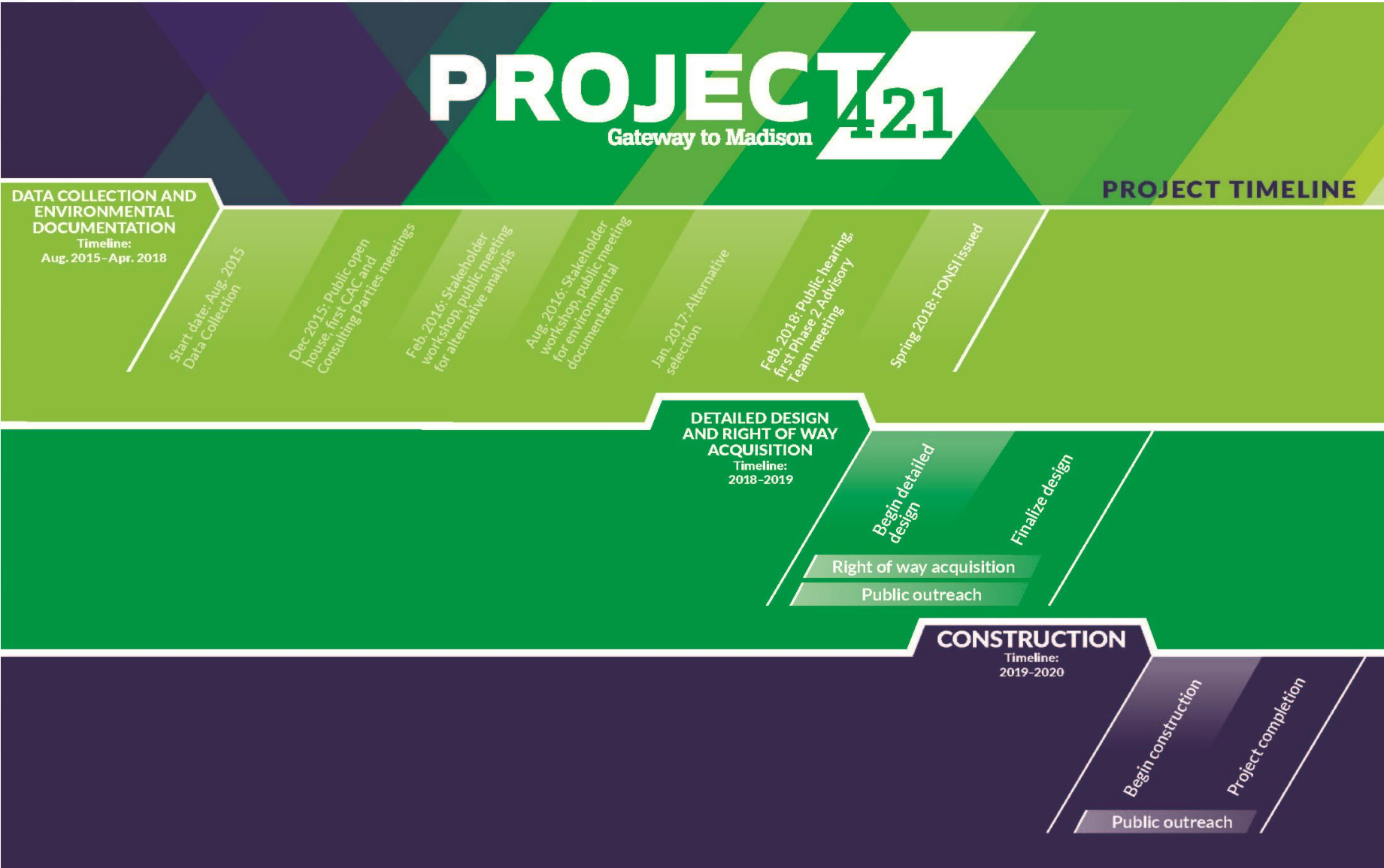
- Right of Way
 - 2.0 acres necessary permanent acquisition
 - 6 relocations
 - 0.22 acre temporary for grading and drive construction
- Historical Properties
 - 6 contributing properties impacted
 - 2 relocations
- Protected species
 - No impacts to protected species are expected
- Noise Impacts
 - A noise study was completed and approved in 2016-2017
 - With design year (2041) traffic, 3 receptors were impacted
- Vibration Impacts
 - A vibration monitoring plan will be developed to monitor vibrations from construction activity



Real Estate Acquisition Process

- **"Uniform Act of 1970"**
 - All federal, state and local governments must comply
 - Requires an offer for just compensation
- **Acquisition Process**
 - Appraisals
 - Review Appraisals
 - Negotiations
 - Relocation Assistance
- **INDOT and Consultant Real Estate Team to work with impacted property owners**
- **Right-of-way**
 - Permanent ROW: 2.0 acre
 - Permanent ROW is land, once purchased by INDOT from legal land owner, becomes ROW owned by INDOT
 - Temporary ROW: 0.22 acre
 - Temporary ROW is land required during the construction of a project and is used for the purposes of construction related activity
 - INDOT pays legal land owner a fee for land use during construction

Project Schedule



Submit Public Comments

- Submit public comments using the options described in first page of information packet:
 - Public comment form (turn in tonight or mail)
 - Email
 - Participate during public comment session via microphone
 - Record verbal comments to be transcribed and included in public hearing transcript
- **INDOT respectfully requests comments be submitted by Wednesday, March 7, 2018**
- All comments submitted are included in the public hearings transcript and made part of the public record
- Comments are reviewed, evaluated and given consideration during decision-making process

Next Steps

- **Public and project stakeholder input**
 - Submit comments via options described on page 1 of information packet
- **INDOT review of public comments**
 - All comments are given full consideration during decision-making process
 - Finalize/approve environmental document, complete project design
- **Communicate a decision**
 - INDOT will notify project stakeholders of decision
 - Work through local media, social media outlets, paid legal notice
 - Make project documents accessible via repositories
- **Questions? Contact Public Involvement Team**

Project Resource Locations

- **INDOT Seymour District Office**

185 Agrico Lane, Seymour, IN 47274

Statewide Customer Service Toll Free Phone
Number (855) 463-6848

secommunications@indot.in.gov

<http://www.in.gov/indot/2706.htm>

- **INDOT Office of Public Involvement**

100 North Senate Avenue, Room N642,
Indianapolis, IN 46204; Phone (317) 232-6601

rclark@indot.in.gov

<http://www.in.gov/indot/2366.htm>

- **Jefferson County Public Library**

420 West Main Street

Madison, IN 47250

(812) 265-2744

- **Madison City Hall**

101 West Main Street

Madison, IN 47250

(812) 265-8300

Comment Session

- Please be considerate of others
- Please wait on microphone before speaking
- Questions? Please see Project Staff in the Open House area
- Comments must be submitted by March 7, 2018

Thank You

- Please visit with the INDOT design team and project officials following the presentation and comment session
- **Project Open House**
 - Project maps, displays, real estate acquisition take, INDOT project team and informal Q&A
 - www.Project421.com
 - INDOT Seymour District page: <http://www.in.gov/indot/2706.htm>